

## **Amendments to the Claims:**

### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously presented) A method for managing connection requests to a pool of servers identified by a given URL, comprising the steps of:
  - in response to a connection request from a given client machine that initiates a session, associating a session identifier with a given server in the pool;
  - using the session identifier in a redirection response;
  - returning the redirection response to the given client to redirect the connection request to the given server; and
  - during the session, receiving at the given server any additional connection requests from the given client machine.
2. (Original) The method as described in claim 1 wherein the step of using the session identifier includes generating a virtual URL.
3. (Original) The method as described in claim 2 wherein the virtual URL comprises a URL in the connection request modified to include the session identifier.
4. (Original) The method as described in claim 1 wherein the session identifier is incorporated in data returned from the given server to the client machine.
5. (Original) The method as described in claim 1 further including the step of:
  - in response to a connection request from the given client machine that terminates the session, inactivating the session identifier.
6. (Original) The method as described in claim 1 wherein the given client machine include a browser.

7. (Original) The method as described in claim 1 wherein each of the servers in the pool supports a similar set of objects.

(Original) The method as described in claim 1 wherein the session identifier is associated with a given server as a function of a load balancing protocol.

Please cancel claim 9.

(Currently Amended) A method for managing connection requests to a pool of servers, comprising the steps of:

responsive to a connection request from a client machine to initiate a user session, associating a user session originating from a client machine with a given server in the pool in accordance with a load balancing protocol;

returning a redirection response to the client machine for the connection request;  
and

during the user session, receiving at the given server any additional connection requests originating from the client machine ~~The method as described in claim 9 wherein the associating steps comprises;~~

generating a virtual URL by modifying a given URL to include a session identifier;

using the virtual URL to redirect the connection request to the given server.

11. (Original) The method as described in claim 10 further including the steps of:

inactivating the virtual URL upon completion of the user session.

12. (Original) The method as described in claim 10 wherein all data returned from given server to the client machine includes the session identifier.

13. (Currently Amended) The method as described in claim ~~[[9]]~~ 10 wherein each of the servers in the pool supports a similar set of given projects.

14. (Currently Amended) The method as described in claim [[9]] 10 wherein each client machine include a Web browser.

Please Cancel claim 15.

16. (Currently amended) A computer program product in a computer-readable medium for managing connection requests to a pool of servers, comprising the steps of:  
means, responsive to a connection request from a client machine to initiate a user session, for associating a user session originating from a client machine with a given server in the pool in accordance with a load balancing protocol;  
means for returning a redirection response to the client machine for the connection request;  
means operative during the user session for receiving at the given server any additional connection requests originating from the client machine ~~The computer program product as described in claim 15 wherein the associating means comprises:~~  
means for generating a virtual URL by modifying a given URL to include a session identifier;  
means for redirecting a given connection request to the given server using the virtual URL.

17. (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 16 further including:  
means for inactivating the virtual URL upon completion of the user session.

Please cancel claim 18.

19. (Currently Amended) A server for managing a pool of servers at a Web site identified by a given URL, comprising:

a processor;

an operating system;

a load balancing routine; and

a redirector routine for managing HTTP connection requests to the Web site, comprising:

means responsive to a connection request from a client machine to initiate a user session for associating a user session originating from a client machine with a given server in the pool in accordance with the load balancing routine;

means for returning a redirection response to the client machine for the connection request; and

means operative during the user session for redirecting to the given server any additional connection requests originating from the client machine ~~The server as described in claim~~

~~18 wherein the means for associating comprises:~~

~~means for generating a virtual URL by modifying a given URL to include a session identifier;~~

~~means for redirecting a given connection request to the given server using the virtual URL.~~

20. (Original) The server as described in claim 19 wherein the redirector further includes:

means for inactivating the virtual URL upon completion of the user session.

Please cancel claim 21

22. (Previously presented) A method of managing a pool of servers at a Web site identified by a given URL, comprising the steps of:

in response to a connection request containing the given URL from a given client machine that initiates a session, associating a session identifier with a given server in the pool of servers;

generating a virtual URL by modifying the given URL from the connection request to include the session identifier;

generating a redirection response comprising the virtual URL; and

sending the redirection response to the given client machine to redirect the connection request to the given server.